



VA/DoD Explore New Partnerships

DoD/VA

Seamless

Transition





- **Pre & Post IMR
Issues/Concerns**
- **Pre & Post Deployment**
- **Seamless Transition Activities**
- **DoD/VA Partnerships: What
Lies Ahead**



Individual Medical Readiness: Purpose

- **Provide commanders with real time status of IMR requirements for members**
- **Key DoD Criteria**
 - **Current Immunizations**
 - **Deployment limiting conditions**
 - **Dental classification**
 - **Readiness labs (HIV, Blood Type, DNA, etc)**
 - **Current Physical Assessment**
 - **Medical Equipment - (Glasses, Gas Mask Inserts, Respiratory Protection, Hearing Protection, etc)**

NOTE: Each indicator is defined by Service specific requirements



Individual Medical Readiness: Policy

- **Assessment System**
 - **Fully Medical Ready ===== all categories current**
 - **Partially Medically Ready = lacking Immunizations, labs or equipment**
 - **Not Medically Ready ===== deployment limiting condition of Dental Class III**
 - **Medical Readiness Indeterminate - no record, overdue assessment or Dental Class IV**
- **Quarterly Reporting of Standard Metrics**

MHS IMR Classification

	<i>Fully medically ready</i>	Immunizations current
		Dental Class 1 or 2
		Current med readiness labs
		No deployment limiting condition
		Current Health Assessment
		Medical Equipment Current
	<i>Medically ready with intervention</i>	Needs immunization
		Needs Medical Readiness lab
		Medical equipment needed
	<i>Unknown</i>	Health Assessment overdue
		Dental Class 4
	<i>Not Medically Ready</i>	Dental Class 3
		Deployment prohibiting condition
		Hospital inpatient or convalescing



Pre Deployment Requirements

- **Health Assessment**
- **Current Blood Sample Lab**
- **HIV within past year**



Post Deployment Issues

- **Reintegration**
 - **Family**
 - **Work**
 - **Community**
- **Health Concerns**
- **Where do they go for help or concerns?**



- **Post-Deployment Health Assessment**
- **Blood Sample**
- **Review with a healthcare provider**
- **Risk communication briefings related to deployment**



Deployment Related Concerns Reserve Components

- **Family**
 - Family financial hardships
 - Isolation leads to fear and anger
 - Resentment towards reservist
 - Adjustment to change in role and selves
 - Homecoming let-down
- **Community**
 - Resentment toward RC family
 - Isolation by community
 - Varied support systems



Deployment Related Concerns

- **Work**
 - **Adjustments to Re-employment**
 - **Colleague resentment**
 - Work load
 - Objections to the war
 - **Impact on Career Progression**
 - **Adjustment to work policy changes**
 - **Unrealistic expectation of employer**
 - **Adjustment to work priorities/pace**



Deployment Related Concerns



- **Health Concerns: Post Deployment**
 - **Physical and Emotional Changes by the experience of war - comes home a different person**
 - **Isolated from military community**
 - **Greater potential for denial of readjustment problems**
 - **Limited Knowledge of Benefits**



Seamless Transition of Returning Service Members from DoD to VA



- The War Wounded
- The War Well

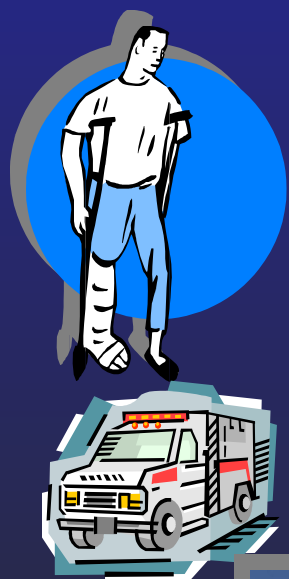


VHA/VBA



Seamless Transition Process

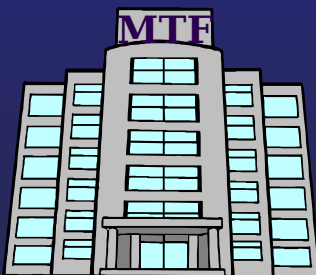
DoD system to VA system



Injury

Overseas
Deployment
Or Training
Accident

DoD system



Transition

- Lists of those Entering DoD Disability System

VA

VHA/VBA

VA



- Rehabilitation
- Disability pension





- Based on **August 28th, 2003** directive from the Under Secretaries for Health & Benefits, VA Taskforce for *“Seamless Transition for Returning Service Members”* charged to:
 - **Improve collaboration** between VHA/VBA and DoD
 - **Improve communication** and coordination
 - **Ensure VA staff is educated** and appropriate policies and procedures are in place to enhance seamless transition of health care and disability services
- Early efforts limited to VA & Army (specifically, Walter Reed AMC)
 - Served to align VA, VHA & VBA interests and lay the foundation for follow on VA/DoD level participation



Walter
Reed AMC

VA Task Force Immediate Action Plan



MTF Liaisons at:

- Brooke AMC
- Eisenhower AMC
- Madigan AMC



VA full time Social
Worker and
VBA Coordinator



VA to DoD



DoD to
VA

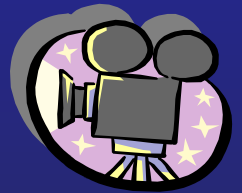
Transfer Electronic
Lists of those
entering disability
process
(MOA Pending)



• VA
Liaisons
VHA
facilities
VBA offices

World Class Health and Disability Services

VA Task Force VBA/VHA Employee Education



- Developed a script for front line VA staff, pay stub messages, conference calls, field alerts
- Developed a video to highlight coordination issues **“Our Turn to Serve”**
- Developed a joint management team concept and action plan with time lines
- Developed software/process for VA enrollment prior to leaving Walter Reed/Bethesda
- Developed clinical practice guidelines/broadcasts

Brochure:

“Summary of VA Benefits For Guard/Reserve”

Benefits



VHA/VBA Outreach Activities



- **Transition Assistance Programs and Military Briefings**
 - **Reserve and Guard Briefings**
 - **Veterans Assistance at Discharge (VADS)**
 - **Briefings Aboard Ships and Demobilization Sites**
 - **Casualty Assistance-in Service Death**
 - **Bereavement Counseling by VET Center**
 - **Department of Defense "Tool Kit"**
 - **Local Activities and Benefits Usage**
- Analysis:**



VA Task Force VHA/VBA Subgroup Accomplishments

On-Going VHA/VBA Program Office Subgroup:

- **Developed a business plan and budget :
Long-term program management**
- **Continued robust monitoring of Task Force activities and case management**

